



# **U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville Information Bulletin**



**02 - 02**

**June 2002**

## **LOW WATER: INCREASE OF IN-CHANNEL GROUNDING INCIDENTS**

The U. S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville, Kentucky, has investigated an alarming number of in-channel groundings since the on-set of low water conditions on the Ohio River. Since June 23, 2002 six in-channel groundings, occurring from mile 607-796, have been reported to this office. Towing vessel operators are reminded that it is their responsibility to monitor water levels and ensure adequate water exists to accommodate the draft of their tows. The draft of tows involved in these groundings has ranged from 9.5 feet to 11.5 feet.

Low water conditions exist on the Ohio River for the entire length of the MSO Louisville area of responsibility from mile 867.3 to 374.8. Vessel operators are reminded that the Army Corps of Engineer's advertised depth on the Ohio River is 9 feet. Tows operating with excessive drafts do so at their own risk and may be at greater risk of running aground. It is recommended that mariners be particularly vigilant and use extreme caution while operating in these low water conditions.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact my representative, Lieutenant Dwayne Adkins at (502) 582-5194 ext. 25.

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